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                                UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 6
                          CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA-SOUTHERN
    DIVISION
 7
    DAVID GREENBERG
 8
                                         Case No.: SACV 12-2074-CJC (ANZ)
 9
               Plaintiff,
                                         COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY
10
         vs.
                                         TRIAL
                                        Defamation/Slander/Libel Per Se
    WESTERN CPE, a Montana
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    Corporation; and
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    STEVEN D. NASH, an individual
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    Defendants
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## COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL Defamation/Slander/Libel Per Se

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Plaintiff David Greenberg ("Greenberg") sues Western CPE and Steven D. Nash (collectively "Defendants") and alleges as follows:

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Plaintiff David B. Greenberg ("Plaintiff" or "Greenberg") is a resident of Palm Beach County, Florida, and maintains an office at 5700 Old Ocean Blvd, Unit C, Ocean Ridge, Florida and is engaged in the profession of providing tax, accounting, investment and financial advice. Greenberg is a retired CPA, certified as an Enrolled Agent, Registered Tax Return Preparer, member of the Chartered Financial Accountants association and

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.Defendant Western CPE ("Western CPE") is located at 243 Pegasus Drive, Bozeman, Montana 59718 is a Montana corporation engaged in the providing educational services throughout the country including providing continuing professional education ("CPE") to certified public accountants ("CPAs") on behalf of the California Board of Accountancy ("CBA").

member of the Certified Market Technician association.

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Defendant Steven D. Nash ("Nash") is located at 9235 Silverwood CT, Granite Bay, California 95746 is a California CPA who writes courses for Western and practices as a CPA in California.

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4. The true names of Does defendants one through fifty are unknown to Plaintiff at this time so the Does are being sued fictitiously and the complaint will be amended to include their true names once they become known. Does one though fifty will likely be inclusive of individuals like Michael Hammersley the CBA informant, Donald Driftmier a CBA Board member and the CBA itself once further discovey and investigation has been completed.

#### JURISDICTION

7. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1332(a)(1), There is complete diversity in this action as Plaintiffs are informed and believe that Defendants are not residents of or domiciled in the same state as Plaintiff. Defendants, Western and Nash conduct substantial business in Orange County California. Plaintiff an individual, is not domiciled in nor is a resident of the State of California and the amount in controversy is greater than \$75,000.

8. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1391(b(I) because, on information and belief, Defendants conduct substantial business activities in Orange County California. Accordingly, Defendants reside within this district for the purposes of venue.

9. Venue is also proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1391(b)(2) because, as alleged herein, the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred within Orange County, California.

#### GENERAL AND CLAIM ALLEGATIONS

BACKGROUND

10. At all relevant times, Defendants transacted and conducted substantial business in Orange County, California. Moreover, on information and belief the acts alleged herein giving rise to this complaint originated in Orange County, California.

11. The CBA specifically approved Western's provision of a mandatory CBA ethics course for California CPA's: "California Ethics Regulatory Review Course 4100555, hereinafter referred to as "CBA mandated Ethics Course". See Exhibit 1, "Board Approved Regulatory Review Courses", Exhibit 2, the first two pages and page 89 of the CBA mandated Ethics Course and Exhibit 3, Certificate of Completion of the CBA mandated Ethics Review Course by Greenberg on 10-19-2012. All information contained in Exhibits 2 and 3 was provided to Greenberg on 10-19-2012 and as of this filing is still available as is.

12. The CBA mandated Ethics Course was written by Defendant Steven D. Nash ("Nash") of 9235 Silverwood CT, Granite Bay, California 95746 and Western charges \$45.00 for ... California CPAs and others to take the test and obtain the necessary CPEs to maintain a valid CPA license. See Exhibit 4, Receipt from Western CPE to Greenberg for the course.

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13. The CBA mandated Ethics Course contains a description on page 89 of how Plaintiff David Greenberg ("Greenberg") of 5700 Old Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge Florida 33435 had his CPA revoked by the CBA via "default decision" on February 23, 2009. See page 3 of Exhibit 2 which is page 89 of Western's CBA mandated Ethics Course.

#### DEFENDANTS LIBEL, DEFAMATION AND SLANDER PER SE

14. Western and Nash also knowingly made the following false statements on page 89 of the CBA mandated Ethics Course:

A. Greenberg participated in selling fraudulent tax shelters while at KPMG.

- B. Greenberg caused KPMG to fail to register tax shelters with the IRS.
- C. Greenberg prepared false documentation to be included in tax returns.
  - D. Greenberg caused to be or prepared fraudulent tax returns.
- E. Greenberg conspired with unlicensed persons to commit tax fraud.
- F. Greenberg's personal returns contained fraudulent tax losses.

15. In fact, in July of 2010 at a CBA hearing Greenberg explained to the CBA under penalties of perjury that not were such statements completely false but that in December of 2008 at a criminal trial Greenberg was found innocent of any such

allegations with the Judge at trial specifically stating an injustice had been served upon Greenberg and the U.S. prosecutors had "misled" him about Greenberg. Further, the IRS has never even alleged let alone charged Greenberg with committing personal tax fraud from 1999 to 2004.

16. Western and Nash were very well aware of the public hearing and Greenberg's denial of all the charges not to mention Greenberg's acquittal at trail of the very same allegations.

17. Western and Nash go on to intentionally falsely state on page 89 of the CBA mandated Ethics Course the following:

"After being sanctioned by the IRS, the Board of Accountancy initiated its disciplinary process"

18. The IRS never sanctioned Greenberg. In fact, Greenberg's privileges to practice before the IRS have never been suspended or otherwise hindered by the IRS and to this day Greenberg is authorized under "Circular 230" or otherwise to practice and represent clients before the IRS.

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19. As Western and Nash very well know the Board of Accountancy (the CBA) initiated its disciplinary process in the fall of 2008 while Greenberg was on trial for the very same false statements made by Western and Nash (not including the false statements that the IRS "sanctioned" Greenberg) and from which Greenberg was acquitted and exonerated of all charges in December of 2008.

No mention is made by Western and Nash in their knowingly false recitation of facts.

20. Specifically, by example, and without limitation, Defendant's written false statements are defamatory for the following reasons:

a. The statements quoted above falsely accuse Plaintiff of being dishonest generally, and

b. specifically dishonest in his profession, being liar, committing tax fraud and selling fraudulent tax shelters.

21. The statements quoted above falsely accuse Plaintiffs of committing crimes and conspiring to commit crimes.

22. The statements quoted above falsely accuse Plaintiff of committing fraud on the courts and conspiring to commit fraud on the court.

23. Plaintiff's business is highly competitive, in that there are many firms and practitioners providing services covering the same practice area in which Plaintiff practices.

24. Individuals select a financial advisor based largely, if not exclusively, on the reputation of the advisor. To this end, Plaintiffs' reputation is critically important to successfully marketing the services to prospective clients.

Conduct which casts a professional in a negative light, or which places them in disrepute, can discourage potential clients from hiring Plaintiff to represent them, and can encourage clients to seek representation at other firms.

25. The above allegations constitute libel per se, in that they accuse Plaintiff of acts of moral turpitude and conduct incompatible with the exercise of his profession.

- 26. Defendants acted intentionally, with actual malice, when they published the false written statements to the business, media and college communities at large and did so to intentionally damage Plaintiff's business and reputation and did so without any justification.
- 27. By publishing the false written statements to the business and college communities, Defendants purposely communicated these publications to countless third persons in California and the rest of the United States (including Florid where Greenberg resides).

28. As a direct, proximate and foreseeable result of the above described defamation, Plaintiff has suffered damages and will continue to suffer damages in an amount in excess of \$10 million, which includes damage to their reputation, humiliation and depression, mental pain and anguish, and an impairment of their ability to work in his profession.

WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing, the Plaintiffs would pray for entry of a judgment as follows: 3 For temporary, preliminary and permanent injunctive relief 5 6 enjoining defendant 7 from publishing further defamatory statements; 8 For damages of not less than \$10 million,, in an exact amount to be proven at trial; 11 For special damages in an amount to be proven at trial. 12 13 For punitive damages in an amount sufficient to punish 14 Defendants and to deter 15 them from engaging in wrongful conduct in the future, with the 16 exact amount to be proven at trial; 17 18 For interest, attorneys' fees and costs, and 19 20 For such other relief as this Court may deem to be 21 equitable and just. 22 23 DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY 24 Plaintiffs hereby demand trial of all causes by 25 jury. 26 27

# Case 8:12-cv-02074-CJC-AN Document 1 Filed 11/30/12 Page 10 of 15 Page ID # 13

Respectfully submitted:

DATED: November 29, 2012

David Greenberg

Ву:

David Greenberg

Pro Per

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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

WESTERN CPE AND STEVEN D. NASH
Attorneys (If Known)
NSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES - For Diversity Cases Only 1 X in one box for plaintiff and one for defendant.)
PTF DEF s State □ 1 □ X Incorporated or Principal Place □ 4 □ X of Business in this State
other State  \( \overline{\mathcal{X}}2  \text{D} \text{2}  \text{Incorporated and Principal Place }  \text{D} 5  \text{D} 5  \text{of Business in Another State} \)
ject of a Foreign Country □ 3 □ 3 Foreign Nation □ 6 □ 6
1.5 Transferred from another district (specify):
es' only if demanded in complaint.)
MONEY DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT: \$ 10,000,000
rite a brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.) (DIVERSITY)
TORTS

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Case Number: SACV12-02074 C.J.C (ANX)

AFTER COMPLETING THE FRONT SIDE OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW.

## Case 8:12-cv-02074-CJC-AN Document 1 Filed 11/30/12 Page 12 of 15 Page ID #:15

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: H If yes, list case number(s):	las this action been p	previously filed in this court a	nd dismissed, remanded or closed? ☐No ☐ Yes
VIII(b). RELATED CASES: Ha If yes, list case number(s):	ve any cases been po	reviously filed in this court tha	at are related to the present case? ☐XNo ☐ Yes
□С	. Arise from the san . Call for determina . For other reasons v	ne or closely related transaction tion of the same or substantial would entail substantial duplic	ons, happenings, or events; or ly related or similar questions of law and fact; or cation of labor if heard by different judges; or , <u>and</u> one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.
IX. VENUE: (When completing the			
<ul> <li>(a) List the County in this District</li> <li>□ Check here if the government,</li> </ul>	; California County its agencies or empl	outside of this District; State i oyees is a named plaintiff. If	f other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named plaintiff resides. this box is checked, go to item (b).
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country
			DAVID GREENBERG, FLORIDA
(b) List the County in this District.  ☐ Check here if the government,	California County of its agencies or emplo	outside of this District; State in oyees is a named defendant.	f other than California; or Foreign Country, in which <b>EACH</b> named defendant resides.  If this box is checked, go to item (c).
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country
STEVEN D NASH, OR WESTERN CPE, ORA			
(c) List the County in this District; Note: In land condemnation of	California County o	outside of this District; State it on of the tract of land involv	other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH claim arose.
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country
ORANGE COUNTY	·		
* Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernal Note: In land condemnation cases, un	rdino, Riverside, V	entura, Santa Barbara, or S. tract of land involved	an Luis Obispo Counties
X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (	OR PRO PER):	17/	Date 11-30-12
but is used by the Clerk of the C	w. This form, approverourt for the purpose	ed by the Judicial Conference	nation contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed ng the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)
Key to Statistical codes relating to So Nature of Suit Code	-	Sub-tanting St. 4	
Mature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of	Cause of Action
861	НІА	All claims for health insura Also, include claims by hos program. (42 U.S.C. 1935F	nce benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended pitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the F(b))
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" (30 U.S.C. 923)	" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969.
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured amended; plus all claims file	workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as ed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C	or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security C. 405(g))
864	SSĮD	All claims for supplemental Act, as amended.	security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (ol U.S.C. (g))	d age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42.

CV-71 (05/08)

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

#### NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR DISCOVERY

This case has been assigned to District Judge Cormac J. Carney and the assigned discovery Magistrate Judge is Arthur Nakazato.

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

SACV12- 2074 CJC (ANx)

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, the Magistrate Judge has been designated to hear discovery related motions.

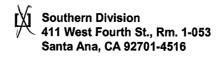
All discovery related motions should be noticed on the calendar of the Magistrate Judge

#### NOTICE TO COUNSEL

A copy of this notice must be served with the summons and complaint on all defendants (if a removal action is filed, a copy of this notice must be served on all plaintiffs).

Subsequent documents must be filed at the following location:

Ш	western division
	312 N. Spring St., Rm. G-8
	Los Angeles, CA 90012
	Los Angeles, CA 90012



	Eastern Division
h	3470 Twelfth St., Rm. 134
	Riverside, CA 92501

Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

I	INITED	STATES	DISTRICT	COURT
·	フェイエエエンエン	DIAILO	DISTRICT	COURT

DAVID GREENBERG	for the
1730 S FEDERAL HWY, 140 DELRAY BEACH, FLA 33483	{ FOR OFFICE USE ON
DAVID GREENBERG	)
Plaintiff(s)	
v. WESTERN CPE AND STEVEN D. NASH	Civil Action No. SACV12-02074 CJC (ANx)
	) )
Defendant(s)	)

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

DAVID GREENBERG 1730 S FEDERAL HWY, 140 DELRAY BEACH, FLA 33483

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date: \_\_11-30-12

LORI WAGERS

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

### PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

This summor	ns for (name of individual and title, if an	עי)	
was received by me o	on (date)	•	
☐ I personall	ly served the summons on the indi	ividual at <i>(place</i> )	
		on (date)	; or
☐ I left the su	ummons at the individual's reside	nce or usual place of abode with (name)	
	,	a person of suitable age and discretion who	resides there,
on (date)		opy to the individual's last known address;	or
☐ I served the	e summons on (name of individual)		, who is
designated by	law to accept service of process	on behalf of (name of organization)	
		on (date)	; or
☐ I returned to	he summons unexecuted because		; or
Other (speci)	fy):		
My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of	\$ 0.00
I declare under	penalty of perjury that this inforr	nation is true.	
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
ate:			
		Server's signature	
		Printed name and title	
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Additional information regarding attempted service, etc: